

An Explanation of Iowa Youth Congress

By Aditi D.

At our planning meeting, we tried to explain how Iowa Youth Congress works, how we come up with ideas, how we vote on them, etc. etc. So,

I made this chart in an attempt to explain how this all works. If this doesn't make sense or you have questions, ask Frances or any of the other returning members! Thanks for reading!

September Meeting

Regional Brainstorming

Region One

Region Two

Region
Three

Explanation

In each region, all the IYC members meet that live near that meeting location. They all bring one or two ideas for bills that they want to be amended or created that they think are important. So total, we'd have around 15-30 ideas. All of us would go through each idea, and discuss the plausibility. We then discuss, and ask questions to the person who came up with the idea. (This is why your idea needs to be well researched. There's nothing worse than discussing something you're passionate about and not being able to defend it.) After discussion, we eliminate the ideas we don't like, and make a final list of the ideas we do like. Those ideas will then be taken to the annual session. Each region will do this process.

EXAMPLE.

Initial List:

- 1) Outlawing Mushrooms (Ed)
- 2) Making 4 hours of Community Service Mandatory for all IYC members (Bob)
- 3) Improving communication on DART Buses (Sally)
- 4) Abolishing the death penalty (Larry)
- 5) Mandating a class on Justin Bieber in all public schools. (Jane)

During Discussion....

- 1) Outlawing Mushrooms
- 2) ~~Making 4 hours of Community Service Mandatory for all IYC members~~
- 3) Improving communication on DART Buses
- 4) Abolishing the death penalty
- 5) ~~Mandating a class on Justin Bieber in all public~~

Region Three's Final List of Ideas

- Improving communication on DART Buses (Sally)
- Abolishing the death penalty (Larry)
- Outlawing Mushrooms (Ed)

November Phase 1

Subcommittees

Region One's Final List of Ideas

- Mandating Pickle Consumption
- Cyberbullying
- Requiring Bike Lanes

Region Two's Final List of Ideas

- Helmets for Motorcyclists
- Requiring chocolate consumption
- iPads for every student

Region Three's Final List of Ideas

- Improving communication on DART Buses (Sally)
- Abolishing the death penalty (Larry)
- Outlawing Mushrooms (Ed)

As you can see, each region has come up with a list of ideas that they like the best. Now, these ideas will be split up into subcommittees. Notice how the ideas have names by them, those are the people who brought up the idea. They will stick with their idea in the subcommittee (SC). Everyone else that does not have an individual idea will be split up unto various committees.

Miscellaneous SC

- iPads for every student
- Cyberbullying
- Abolishing the death penalty (Larry)

Public Safety SC

- Improving communication on DART Buses (Sally)
- Requiring Bike Lanes
- Helmets for Motorcyclists

Food SC

- Mandating Pickle Consumption
- Requiring chocolate consumption
- Outlawing Mushrooms (Ed)

Miscellaneous SC

- iPads for every student
- ~~Cyberbullying~~
- ~~Abolishing the death penalty (Larry)~~

Public Safety SC

- Improving communication on DART Buses (Sally)
- ~~Requiring Bike Lanes~~
- Helmets for Motorcyclists

Food SC

- Mandating Pickle Consumption
- Requiring chocolate consumption
- ~~Outlawing Mushrooms (Ed)~~

So now that we've discussed the ideas in subcommittees, we've decided on the ones we like the best that we are sending to the BIG session, in the house chambers. Everyone will join together and we'll spend 10-15 minutes on each bill (depending on how many bills there are to discuss). We then will vote (with the cool buttons ☺) and finalize on 3 ideas (or however many pass). These are the ideas that all IYC participants will pursue over the next couple of months. We will research them and lobby to Iowa's Senators and Representatives.

November Phase 2 House Session

Ideas Being discussed in House

- Mandating Pickle Consumption
- Requiring chocolate consumption
- Helmets for Motorcyclists
- Improving communication on DART Buses
- iPads for every student

IYC Bills 2012-2013

- Improving communication on DART Buses (Sally)
- Mandating Pickle Consumption
- iPads for every student

November Phase 3 (Saturday)

Planning

On this day, we'll talk to senators about the bills we chose, and discuss strategies on how to lobby our bills. We'll practice lobbying in person and writing letters/emails.

Beyond... (January And February)

Lobbying

We'll lobby to our individual senators through email and in person. We will plan a few specific dates during which IYC will lobby as a group.